PATENT APPLICATION
ALCATEL NO.: 135614
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 1285-0148US

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121, provided below is a listing of the claims, claims 1-18, of the present patent application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a plurality of network elements, comprising:

receiving a plurality of ~~quality of service (QoS)~~ alarms from each of the plurality of ~~alarms~~ network elements, wherein the alarms belong to various types;

~~determining an event flow rate wherein an event flow rate is the rate that a specific type of alarm is received~~;

determining which of the plurality of network elements is generating the greatest number of alarms; and

instructing the network element generating the greatest number of alarms to stop ~~sending the alarms~~ transmitting the alarms.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the network element is instructed to not transmit a particular type of alarm for a predetermined period of time ~~does not transmit the specified types of alarms for a period of 600 seconds~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1 wherein only a specific threshold alarm not transmitted for the period~~ claim 2 wherein the particular type of alarm comprises a threshold type alarm operable to be compared against an event flow rate associated therewith.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 1 where a type of alarm is not transmitted for the period~~ claim 2 wherein the particular type of alarm comprises a quality of service (QoS) alarm.

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5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4 wherein the type is the threshold types of alarms~~ claim 2 wherein the network element instructed to stop transmitting the particular type of alarm is operable to store the particular type of alarm for the predetermined period of time.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4 wherein the type is the QoS types of alarms~~ claim 5 further comprising the step of instructing the network element to retransmit the particular type of alarm after expiration of the predetermined period of time.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~a network element that has been suspended from transmitting alarms is allowed to start re-transmitting the suspended type of alarm if the event flow has dropped below a lower threshold value~~ the network element is allowed to retransmit the alarms depending on satisfying an event flow rate condition associated therewith.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 7 wherein the lower threshold value is equal to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the step of instructing the network element to stop transmitting the alarms comprises instructing the network element to stop transmitting the alarms based on a predetermined precedence of suspension relating to the types of alarms.

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9. (Currently Amended) An element management system, comprising:

a processor;

a transceiver operable to be coupled to a plurality of network elements, wherein each network element is operable to transmit alarm signals to the element management system, the alarm signals relating to various types of alarms generated in the network elements; and

a store for storing computer instructions that define operational logic of the element management system, the computer instructions, upon execution by the processor, for prompting the element management system to issue a signal to a network element to cause it to stop sending ~~QoS signals~~ alarm signals based on a predetermined precedence of suspension of transmission.

10. (Currently Amended) The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending alarm signals relating to only a specific type of threshold crossing alarm.

11. (Currently Amended) The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending alarm signals relating to all threshold crossing ~~alerts~~ alarms.

12. (Currently Amended) The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending alarm signals relating to all quality of service (QoS) alarms ~~QoS alarms~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a ~~plurality of signals~~ signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending alarm signals based on a precedence of suspension determined ~~alarms, wherein the instructions to stop transmitting are,~~ in the following order:

specified types of threshold alarms;

all threshold alarms;

all QoS alarms; and

all alarms.

14. (Currently Amended) The element management system of claim 9 wherein the computer instructions prompt the processor to send a ~~plurality of signals~~ signal to the network element to instruct it to stop sending alarm signals relating to threshold crossing alarms and quality of service (QoS) alarms such that the threshold crossing alarms are suspended prior to the QoS alarms ~~alarms, wherein instructions prompt the element management system to instruct a second network element to stop sending threshold crossing alerts prior to sending an instruction to stop transmitting all QoS alarms~~.

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15. (New) A method of managing alarm signal flow generated by a plurality of network elements, the method comprising:

monitoring alarm signals by an element management system coupled to the plurality of network elements, wherein the alarm signals are transmitted by each network element and relate to various types of alarms generated thereat; and

instructing a network element by the element management system to suspend transmission of the alarm signals based on a predetermined order of precedence, if the alarm signal flow from the network element exceeds a flow rate associated therewith.

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16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein a network element is instructed by the element management system to not transmit alarm signals relating to a particular type of alarm for a predetermined period of time.

17. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of instructing a network element by the element management system to retransmit the alarm signals after the network element was initially instructed to not transmit the alarm signals.

18. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the predetermined order of precedence for suspending transmission comprises the following order: specified types of threshold alarms; all threshold alarms; all quality of service (QoS) alarms; and all alarms.